

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 013209
ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 R

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APPROVED BY EUR/EE:N G ANDREWS
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
EUR/EE ONLY; THREE COPIES ONLY
-----039473 181318Z /53
R 172347Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013209

FOR SIMONS FROM ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL/INFORMAL

1. RETAINER FOR LOCAL ATTORNEY. YOU SHOULD HAVE BY NOW
AUTHORIZATION TO PUT TRIMBITIONI ON RETAINER. WE HOPE THIS
HELPS IN SORTING OUT THE DECREE 223 CASES.

2. DIPLOMATIC CLUB. THE ANSWER HERE, AS YOU NOTICED, WAS
LESS FORTHCOMING, BECAUSE THE REGULATIONS ARE QUITE STRICT.
THERE IS A TINY LOOPHOLE, IF YOU CAN DOCUMENT THAT THE
CONSEQUENCES OF OUR NOT HELPING OUT THE CLUB ARE ABSOLUTELY
CATASTROPHIC AND CAN OBTAIN FINANCE MINISTRY CONCURRENCE.
EVEN THEN, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT TREASURY WOULD GO
ALONG. IS THERE REALLY NO WAY OF PERSUADING THE ROMANIANS
TO ALLOW THE CLUB TO OPERATE IN A REASONABLE MANNER?

3. ASTRONAUT TRAINING. THE ONLY REPLY TO BUCHAREST 9023
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THAT NASA IS WILLVNG TO CLEAR IS A VERY NEGATIVE ONE
ALREADY FAMILIAR TO THE ROMANIANS AND JAY BLOWERS: IN THE
ABSENCE OF AN AGREED COOPERATIVE PROJECT REQUIRING PAYLOAD
SPECIALISTS, THERE IS NO BASIS FOR CONSIDERING THE ROMANIAN
REQUEST TO STUDY ASTRONAUT TRAINING IN THE U.S. WE RAN
INTO A STONE WALL IN TRYING TO GET ANY FARTHER. NASA HAS
NOT ARRANGED ORIENTATION VISITS OF THE TYPE THE ROMANIANS

WANT FOR ANY OTHER COUNTRY, AND THEY ARE VERY MUCH AFRAID THAT THIS IS JUST A WAY FOR THE GOR TO TRY TO GET A FOOT IN THE DOOR. IF THE ROMANIANS WERE TO ASK NASA DIRECTLY FOR RELATED DOCUMENTATION, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING, BUT NASA DOES NOT WANT US TO VOLUNTEER THIS BECAUSE IT WILL REQUIRE AN EXTENSIVE CLEARING PROCEDURE BECAUSE OF GUIDELINES SET UP FOR DEALING WITH THE USSR.

4. BACKGROUND NOTES. YOUR OFFER TO TRY YOUR HAND AT UPDATING THE BACKGROUND NOTES IS BOTH WELCOME AND TIMELY, SINCE THE CEAUSESCU VISIT WILL GENERATE A DEMAND FOR A CURRENT VERSION. WE ARE POUCHING YOU THE JULY 1975 EDITION, WHICH WAS PREPARED FOR PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT BUT NOT PRINTED IN QUANTITY, ALONG WITH SOME GUIDELINES ON HOW TO BRING IT UP TO DATE. (IN BRIEF, THE GUIDELINES ARE: MAKE THE NOTES SHORT SO AS TO KEEP DOWN PRINTING COST AND MAKE ROOM FOR MORE ILLUSTRATIONS; EMPHASIZE MATTERS NOT AVAILABLE FROM OTHER SOURCES, ESPECIALLY U.S. POLICY TOWARD ROMANIA AND THE U.S. PERSPECTIVE ON ITS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FUTURE; PROJECT ECONOMIC TRENDS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE; IN TRAVEL NOTES, INCLUDE PLACES WORTH SEEING AND CHECK IMMUNIZATION GUIDANCE (HEW WANTS TO DISCOURAGE OVER-IMMUNIZATION). WE SHOULD ALLOW ABOUT A MONTH AND A HALF FOR PRE-PUBLICATION PROCESSING. THAT, UNFORTUN-

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ATELY, DOESN'T LEAVE MUCH TIME, BUT OF COURSE A GOOD DEAL OF THE TEXT CAN PROBABLY STAND UNCHANGED. WHEN CAN WE EXPECT YOUR DRAFT? CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE013209
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: I M SILINS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780026-0869
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780153/aaaabsch.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aec0cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3759677
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL/INFORMAL
TAGS: OGEN
To: BUCHAREST
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aec0cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014